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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



AUGUST 16, 1948 SS-69

## Big Crop Prospects Make Further Gains

Favorable conditions have continued and crop prospects August 1 were much better than the already good prospects of a month ago. Gains from last month are seen in nearly all crops. Feed grains now top all previous totals. Food grains are second largest on record. Oilseeds may reach a new high...heavy production of fruits, vegetables, and special crops. Biggest all-crop volume on record is now forecast.

## Billion Bushels More Corn Than Last Year

Corn crop jumped to 3.5 billion bushels, up from last month's forecast by 178 million bushels and up from last year's production by 1.1 billion bushels. Production last year was 2.4 billion; '37-46 average, 2.8 billion bushels...41 bushels per acre now forecast; 10-year average, a little over 31 bushels per acre.

## Fifth More Oats Than Last Year

Oats crop, estimated at nearly 1.5 billion bushels, is up 45 million bushels from month ago. New estimate exceeds last year's production (which was near average) by 254 million bushels. This year's crop is about a fifth larger than both last year and average. The crop will be almost as large as the bumper crops of '45 and '46.

## More Barley Than Last Year And Average

The 313.1 million bushel barley estimate is 12 percent above last year's crop and 5 percent above the 10-year average. The big crop in '42 totaled 429 million bushels; '37-46 average, 298.8 million.

## Grain Sorghum, Second Largest Crop

Sorghum grain production is indicated at 131.3 million bushels. This would be second largest crop on record and results from both increased acreage and yield. Last year's crop, 95.6 million; average, 99.3 million, '44 record, nearly 185 million bushels.

## Hay and Pastures, Above Average

Hay prospects improved nearly 3 million tons from a month ago. The all-hay estimate is 97.7 million tons compared with 95 million July 1; 102.5 million tons produced last year; and 97.6 million tons average. Total supply, including 15 million tons carryover, will be nearly 113 million tons.

Pasture condition has improved from well below average month ago to well above average, and is almost as good as a year ago. Condition, August 1, this year 84, last year 86, average 78.

## Feed Per Animal, A Record

Feed for '48-49 season promises to be the most liberal per animal unit in history, even with relatively small stocks of old grains carried over. Livestock numbers are smallest in 10 years, while corn is a record crop, oats and sorghum grain near record, and barley above average. The bigger than average hay crop with a large hay carryover from last year will provide ample hay, generally, per animal unit. Some areas, notably North Central dairy section, may have to "piece out" with silage and other roughages which, though less desirable, appear to be available.

## Another Bumper Wheat Crop

Winter wheat estimate increased to nearly a billion bushels as harvested yields turned out more than expected. Spring wheat estimate jumped to over 300 million bushels. All wheat is now indicated at nearly 1.3 billion bushels, second only to last year's bumper crop and more than a third above an average crop. 10-year average wheat production has been less than a billion bushels--0.9 billion.

## Other Food Grains

Rice, at 79.9 million bushels, promises to be a record crop. The huge crop results from a fair yield on a record large acreage--1.7 million acres.

Buckwheat is estimated at 6.2 million bushels, compared with 7.3 million produced last year and 7 million '37-46 average. Buckwheat for harvest is down this year to 354 thousand acres, compared with 518 thousand last year and 416 thousand acres 10-year average.

Rye, estimated at 26.7 million bushels, will be 3 percent above last year's production of nearly 26 million bushels but below 10-year average of 37.4 million bushels. Rye acreage, 8 percent above last year, is down from average by nearly a fourth. Yield, 12.2 bushels per acre, is slightly above average.

## Flaxseed Crop, Second Largest of Record

Flaxseed prospects improved during July by nearly a million bushels. Yields are turning out better than expected in the two important States of North Dakota and Montana. Second largest crop of record, now indicated...44.5 million bushels, compared with 39.8 million last year, and 26.8 million 10-year average. A 50-million bushel record was reached in '43.

## Soybeans To Beat '46 Record

The soybean crop, indicated at 205 million bushels, will break all previous records. This year's estimate is 13 percent above the 181 million bushels produced last year and 52 percent above '37-46 average. It beats the previous record, in '46, by 4 million bushels. Expected high yields are due to favorable growing season and to heavy plantings of high-yielding varieties.

## Record Crop of Peanuts on Fewer Acres

The peanut crop, indicated at 2.3 billion pounds, will be a record. Last year's production was nearly 2.2 billion; 10-year average, 2.1 billion pounds. Acreage this year is nearly 2 percent below last year. The large crop is the result of generally good per-acre yields.

## Fewer Cattle on Feed

Number of Corn Belt cattle on feed is 12 percent smaller than year ago...is probably the second smallest on record.

## No Meats Being Exported

Meat supplies may increase seasonally this fall but will still be moderately smaller than a year ago. Despite smaller than usual January-June meat output, U. S. civilian supplies have not been reduced to the same extent. No beef, veal, lamb, or pork has been allocated or planned for export to Europe under ECA. Practically none has been exported.

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	June 15 1948	July 15 1948	July 15 1948
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.11	2.03	2.22
Corn, bu. ....dol.	2.16	2.02	1.61
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.4	10.4	12.0
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	35.22	32.99	31.12
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	1.87	1.66	1.86
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	22.90	25.90	18.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	24.80	25.80	13.60
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	26.00	26.70	16.90
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	25.00	26.20	14.80
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	82.7	84.4	1/61.6
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. ....dol.	2/ 4.67	4.80	1/ 3.74
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	30.5	31.9	28.6
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	43.4	45.8	1/51.3

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Revised.



### Strong Demand, Better Prices For Wool

Strong demand for wool and short supply of the better qualities brought higher average price to farmers. Average in July was 49 cents per pound, 8.7 cents higher than a year earlier. Consumption of apparel wool by domestic mills first half of '48 was probably at a rate slightly higher than the corresponding period last year, when the full year's consumption was 981 million pounds grease basis.

### Cottonseed May Reach 6.1 Million Tons

No official estimate yet on cottonseed. But past experience--ratio of cotton to seed--indicates that seed from the present big cotton crop will be about 6.1 million tons. This compares with 4.7 million tons in '47 and 4.9 million tons 10-year average.

### Big Increase In Lint Per Acre-- Over 15 Million Bales Forecast

Cotton forecast on August 1 was 15,169,000 bales. This is 3.3 million bales more than last year's crop and 3.2 million above 10-year average. Bigger crops were made in '11, '14, '25, '26, '31, and in the record year '37 when 18,946,000 bales were produced. Lint per acre this year estimated at 313.5 pounds, is 14.6 pounds above previous high in '44. Last year's lint per acre was 267.2 pounds. Big increase in lint is due to good season and more fertilizer, also to more cotton planted this year in better land areas.

### Tobacco Crop, About 1.8 Billion Pounds

Tobacco prospects improved 1 percent past month. Production of nearly 1.8 billion pounds now indicated...16 percent below '47, 23 percent below record crop of '46. More than 1 billion pounds of above estimate is flue-cured, off a little from last month and about .3 billion pounds or 24 percent below last year's harvest. But there will be little change in total supply, owing to larger carryover this year than last. Burley--improved during past month--is estimated at nearly .5 billion pounds; Maryland crop, 37.6 million pounds; fire-cured, 69.8 million; and dark air-cured, 32.4 million pounds.

### Potato Yield, 189 Bushels Per Acre --50 Bushels Above 10-year Average

Potatoes harvested to date plus condition of growing crop indicate a total crop of 399 million bushels and a yield of 189.2 bushels per acre. Last year's crop totaled 384 million bushels with a yield of 182 bushels per acre; 10-year average, 392 million bushels and per-acre yield 139.3 bushels. Acreage this year is a fourth less than 10-year average...crop is bigger because of bigger yields per acre.

The 29 late States will produce nearly 301 million bushels of the total, 3 percent more than last year, 1 percent below average. Late States show an increase since last month of about 6 million bushels. Increase is mainly in the eastern part of the country...to some extent in the West.

### Small Crop of Sweetpotatoes

Except for '40, the sweetpotato crop will be smallest since '25. Present crop, indicated at 51.7 million bushels, is down 10 percent from last year...down 20 percent from 10-year average of nearly 65 million bushels.

### More Sugar Cane, Less Sugar Beets

About 6.2 million tons of sugar cane for sugar and seed were indicated on August 1. This compares with 5.4 million last year. Per-acre yield this year, 19.2 tons; last year, 16.9; 10-year average, 20.3 tons.

Sugar beet crop indicated at 10.2 million tons, compares with 12.5 million tons harvested last year and 10-year average of 9.8 million tons.

### Sugar May Total 2 Million Tons

Some 2 million tons of sugar (raw value) may be produced from this year's continental beet and cane crops, if present crop indications materialize and sugar recovery is normal. This total production would be 8 percent less than last year. (No official estimate will be made on sugar until December.)

### Million Fewer Milk Cows Than Year Ago

Milk cow numbers have dropped 11 percent from the war-time peak, mid-'44, of 25.8 million. Fewer milk cows were on farms this mid-year than at any time in 17 years--even fewer than the low number reached in '39 following the great droughts. The 23 million total on farms this June compares with nearly 24 million head a year earlier. Mid-year numbers are down 4 percent from mid-'47, but they are down only 2½ percent from mid-'49 when the war was just beginning to affect the dairy industry.

### Total Milk Output Continues Down But Milk Per Cow Is Near Record

Milk in July totaled 11.6 billion pounds, 4 percent below same month a year ago. Total milk was also below same month of July '42, '43, '45, and '46. Decrease, mainly due to fewer cow numbers. Milk per cow was nearly up to last year's record high for the month.

### Production Costs Cut Farmers' Incomes

Farmers' net income first 7 months probably will be down a little from same period of last year, owing to higher production costs...although cash receipts for farm products were up 4 percent.

### Prices Received Still Below January High

Prices received by farmers (mid-July index) rose 2 percent from mid-June but are still 2 percent or 6 index points below record high reached in January. (July index, 301; June, 295; July last year, 276. All-time high in January, 307.) Higher priced meat animals, and dairy and poultry products more than offset declines in prices of grains, soybeans, and cotton. Prices paid by farmers, including interest and taxes, were 9 percent or 21 index points higher than in July '47 but were the same as in June and January of this year. (July index, 251; June and January 251; July last year, 230)

### Price Supports Under Recent Act.

For a summary of price supports under the 1948 Agricultural Act...crops affected etc., see page 6 of the Demand and Price Situation, released by BAE August 8.

### Civilian Employment Climbs to 61.6 Million

Business activity and civilian employment continued high. Salary and wage payments in May were at an annual rate nearly 10 billion dollars greater than a year earlier and total personal incomes...annual rate...were expected to be up nearly 20 billion dollars. Civilians employed in July reached 61.6 million (Census figure) up from 61.3 million in June. Number employed in July last year, 60.1 million; July 2 years ago, 57.8 million.

### Farm Workers Fail to Show Usual Decline

Little change is noted in the number of farm workers. The 11,087,000 at work on farms August 1 (BAE figure) is about same as a month earlier, also as a year earlier. Usually numbers decline during July.

### You Might Want to Get...

"Agricultural Economic and Statistical Publications" is the name of a new processed publication by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. It tells about the work of the Bureau and lists BAE publications now available. Another guide to information from many agencies: "Suggestions to Prospective Farmers and Sources of Information," has just been brought up to date and reissued by BAE. Address: Division of Economic Information, BAE, Washington 25, D. C.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	July 1948
Prices received by farmers.....	1910-14= 100	301
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes .....	1910-14= 100	251
Parity ratio .....	1910-14= 100	120
Wholesale prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	296
Retail prices of food .....	1910-14= 100	1/ 276
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14= 100	444
Weekly factory earnings .....	1910-14= 100	2/ 473
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan-July 1947	Jan.-July 1948
Milk, (Bil. lb.) .....	74.6	71.9
Eggs, (Bil.) .....	37.7	36.9
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 3755	3/ 3114
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .	3/ 359	3/ 312
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) .....	3/ 4740	3/ 4594
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 9225	3/ 8356
1/ June figure.		
2/ Factory payroll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variations. June figure. May figure was 464.		
3/ January-June		